

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 ARA-10 EA-10 NEA-10
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-12 HA-05
TRSE-00 /132 W

-----127215 152219Z /72

R 152101Z MAR 78
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0057
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 00927

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, UNSC, RH
SUBJECT: RHODESIA: NEGOTIATIONS ON SECURITY COUNCIL
RESOLUTION

REF: A. USUN 902, B. STATE 64843

1. AS AGREED AT WESTERN FIVE MEETING PREVIOUS DAY, AMB
MCHENRY CONTACTED SALIM (TANZANIA) AND JAIPAL (INDIA)
MORNING OF MARCH 14 TO DISCUSS POSSIBILITY OF MODIFYING
AFRICAN TEXT TO MAKE IT ACCEPTABLE TO ALL SC MEMBERS.
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(EFFORTS TO GET IN TOUCH WITH NIGERIAN AMB HARRIMAN WERE
UNSUCCESSFUL UNTIL A CHANCE CORRIDOR CONVERSATION LATER IN
THE DAY.) HE REPORTED ON RESULTS OF HIS EFFORTS AT
WESTERN FIVE MEETING AT NOON.

2. MCHENRY REPORTED THAT HE HAD FOUND BOTH JAIPAL AND
SALIM AMENABLE TO NEGOTIATING CHANGES TO PARA 3 OF THE

NON-ALIGNED RESOLUTION. THEY HAD SUGGESTED SOME POSSIBILITIES AND ALSO SEEMED OPEN TO CHANGES IN SUBSEQUENT PARAS. HOWEVER, BOTH SALIM AND JAIPAL HAD MADE CLEAR THAT STICKING POINT WAS PARA 2, AND THAT AFRICAN GROUP WOULD NOT AGREE TO REPLACE "UNACCEPTABLE" WITH WESTERN-SUGGESTED TERMS SUCH AS "INADEQUATE".

3. MCHENRY THEN PRESENTED TO FIVE DEPT'S SUGGESTED REVISION OF PARA 2 CONTAINED STATE 64843, EXPLAINING, HOWEVER, THAT HE HAD NOT RPT NOT PUT FORWARD THIS WORDING TO JAIPAL AND SALIM. AMB YOUNG POINTED OUT THAT "BAIT" TO AFRICANS TO ACCEPT THIS LANGUAGE, ALONG WITH OTHER NECESSARY CHANGES (WHICH APPEARED NEGOTIABLE), WOULD BE FIVE WESTERN VOTES FOR RESOLUTION. RICHARD, HOWEVER, STATED THAT UK COULD NOT VOTE FOR THE US-SUGGESTED REVISION. MURRAY (UK) ARGUED THAT THIS WORDING WAS TANTAMOUNT TO SAYING THE SALISBURY AGREEMENT WAS ILLEGAL AND UNACCEPTABLE, SINCE UK HAD BEEN CONTENTENDING THAT "AS OF NOW" THE AGREEMENT DOES NOT PROVIDE FOR GENUINE MAJORITY RULE. RICHARD SAID THAT UK COULD NOT AGREE TO USE OF WORD "UNACCEPTABLE".

4. BARTON (CANADA) WONDERED WHETHER, EVEN IF PARA 2 NOT NEGOTIABLE, COMMON GROUND COULD NOT BE FOUND WITH AFRICANS ON OTHER PROVISIONS. IT WAS AGREED, HOWEVER, THAT THERE WOULD BE NO INCENTIVE FOR AFRICANS TO MAKE CONFIDENTIAL

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CHANGES IF THIS WOULD NOT ACHIEVE WESTERN SUPPORT FOR RESOLUTION. SINCE DISCUSSION UNDERSCORED UK INABILITY TO ACCEPT PARA 2 IN ANY FORM PALATABLE TO THE AFRICAN GROUP, FIVE AGREED THAT FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS WOULD BE FRUITLESS AND THAT QUICK CONCLUSION OF SC CONSIDERATION AT TUESDAY'S SESSION WAS DESIRABLE.

5. VON WECHMAR (FRG) EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE OF MAINTAINING SOLIDARITY OF FIVE, EVEN THOUGH SOME COULD ACCEPT MORE IN RESOLUTION THAN COULD UK. HE URGED JOINT ABSTENTION EVEN IN EVENT OF PARA BY PARA VOTING. ALL AGREED THEY WOULD ABSTAIN ON RESOLUTION AS WELL AS IN ANY PARA BY PARA VOTE, RICHARD NOTING UK DID SO (RATHER THAN VETO) ONLY WITH UTMOST RELUCTANCE.

6. COMMENT: AS CONSULTATIONS ON RESOLUTION PROCEEDED, THE WORD "UNACCEPTABLE" SEEMED TO TAKE ON A SPECIAL AURA GIVING IT A SIGNIFICANCE BEYOND THE MEANING OF THE WORD ITSELF. (SITUATION VERY REMINISCENT OF CERTAIN STAGES OF MIDDLE EAST PEACE EFFORTS.) IT ULTIMATELY BECAME CLEAR THAT AFRICANS COULD AGREE TO NO LANGUAGE THAT OMITTED THIS WORD AND BRITISH COULD NOT AGREE TO ANY

WORDING THAT INCLUDED IT. ONCE THAT WAS ESTABLISHED, IT
ENDED ANY HOPE FOR RESOLUTION TEXT THAT ALL SC MEMBERS
COULD SUPPORT. BRITISH HAD OBVIOUSLY CONCLUDED THAT,
REGARDLESS OF WHAT RESOLUTION ACTUALLY SAID, ANYTHING
THAT USED WORD "UNACCEPTABLE" WOULD BE WIDELY INTERPRETED
IN UK AS CALLING SALISBURY AGREEMENT "UNACCEPTABLE". ON

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 00927

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

OTHER HAND, THIS WAS MILDEST TERMINOLOGY THAT AFRICANS
WERE PREPARED TO USE. END COMMENT. YOUNG

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